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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

NALVEN, ANDREW L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2134

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/772,256

Applicant(s)

ORMAN, HILARIE K.

Examiner

Andrew L. Nalven

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 and 35-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 and 35-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-33 and 35-37 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 and 35-37 have been considered but are not persuasive.
3. Applicant's arguments regarding the Shimbo reference are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.
4. Applicant's arguments regarding the limitation "acquiring the cryptographic context information for connecting to the original endpoint **independent** of any particular session or connection to that original endpoint" are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1-33 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject

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matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Independent claims 1, 17, and 35 have been amended to include the limitation "for connecting to the original endpoint independent of any particular session or connection to that original endpoint" which was not described in the specification. The specification makes no specific reference to acquiring the context information "independent" of any particular session.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-5, 8, 13, 15-21, 25, 27-30, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoke et al US Patent No. 6,701,437 in view of Bruce Schneier's Applied Cryptography and Owens et al US Patent No. 5,481,611.

8. With regards to claims 1, 13, 17, 25, 27, and 35, Hoke teaches the connecting of an originally-connected entity to an original endpoint (Hoke, column 8 lines 37-44, VPN and destination endstation, column 8 lines 52-65), the originally-connected entity having

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an entity name and cryptographic context information (Hoke, column 15 lines 24-30, IP address, Hoke, column 8 lines 37-44 "encrypts"), and the creation of an entity identifier (Hoke, column 15 lines 41-50). Hoke fails to teach the encoding of the entity name and the secret value such that by using the secret value, information necessary to access the cryptographic context information can be retrieved and the entity identifier acting as an index into a data structure for acquiring cryptographic context information. Schneier teaches the encoding of the entity name and the secret value such that by using the secret value, information necessary to access the cryptographic context information can be retrieved (Schneier, Page 568, Paragraph 1 and Kerberos Version 5 Messages 2-Kerberos to client, K_{c-tgs} accessed using secret key K_c , and T_c) and decrypting with the secret value to provide an entity name (Schneier, page 570, requesting a service). Owens teaches entity identifier acting as an index into a data structure for acquiring cryptographic context information (Owens, column 3 line 60 – column 4 line 5). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Schneier's method of encrypting an entity name and cryptographic information and Owens' index method with Hoke's virtual private network because it offers the advantage of allowing providing a credential that an entity may use to contact an endpoint in a secure manner that provides authentication (Schneier, Page 568 Paragraph 1) and the advantage of allowing the looking up of a key corresponding to an entity for use in authentication (Owens, column 3 line 60 – column 4 line 5).

9. With regards to claims 2 and 18, Hoke as modified teaches the passing of the entity identifier to at least one subsequently connecting computing entity that seeks to

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connect to the original endpoint (Schneier, Page 568, Paragraph 1 and Kerberos Version 5 Messages 2- Kerberos to client).

10. With regards to claims 3-4, 19 and 21, Hoke as modified teaches the decoding of the entity identifier using the secret key value, thereby determining information necessary to access cryptographic context information (Schneier, Page 568, Paragraph 1 and Kerberos Version 5 Messages 2- Kerberos to client, K_{c-tgs} accessed using secret key K_c , and T_c).

11. With regards to claims 5, Hoke as modified teaches that there is at least one other trusted computing entity (Schneier, Page 567 Figure 24.1 TGS), the trusted computing entity possessing a trusted entity name and the decoding step comprises encoding at least one trusted computer entity name and the secret value to produce a computed identifier and then comparing the computed identifier to the entity identifier to determine if they match (Schneier, Page 568, T_c contains server name, Page 570 section "Requesting a Service").

12. With regards to claim 8, Hoke as modified teaches the subsequently connecting entity using the originally-connected entity name to access the originally connected entity cryptographic context information and the subsequently connecting computing entity uses the originally connected entity cryptographic context information in a secure connection to the original endpoint (Schneier, Page 570 section "Requesting a Service").

13. With regards to claim 15, Hoke as modified teaches the encrypting algorithm being triple DES (Schneier, Pages 294-295).

14. With regards to claims 16 and 20, Hoke as modified teaches the originally connected endpoint being no longer connected to the original endpoint (Hoke, Figure 3, "End" Item 370).

15. With regards to claims 28-30, Hoke as modified teaches the encryption algorithm comprising symmetric key encryption, public key, or Diffie-Hellman key exchange encryption (Schneier, Page 568, "Credentials", encryption using secret key and Page 513, Diffie-Hellman).

16. Claims 6, 9-12, 14, 22-24, 26, 31-33, and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoke et al US Patent No. 6,701,437, Bruce Schneier's Applied Cryptography and Owens et al US Patent No. 5,481,611, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Demers et al US Patent No. 5,857,023.

17. With regards to claims 6 and 22-24, Hoke as modified teaches all that is described above, but fails to teach the deconcatenating of a random number from the entity identifier prior to the decoding step. Demers teaches the deconcatenating of a random number from the entity identifier prior to the decoding step (Demers, column 9 lines 1-21). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Demer's deconcatenating step with Hoke as modified because it offers the advantage of providing an irrefutable method of reassuring a receiving party that the message came from a trusted entity (Demers, column 9 lines 1-11).

18. With regards to claims 9-10, 14, 26, 31-33 and 36-37, Hoke as modified fails to disclose the creating step comprising using a hash function with an input and an output comprising a bitwise concatenation of the entity name, the secret value, and a random number and the output of the hash function being at least bitwise concatenated with the random number. Demers teaches a creating step comprising using a hash function with an input and an output comprising a bitwise concatenation of the entity name, the secret value, and a random number and the output of the hash function being at least bitwise concatenated with the random number (Demers, column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 11). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Demers' creating step with Hoke as modified because it offers the advantage of providing an irrefutable method of reassuring a receiving party that the message came from a trusted entity (Demers, column 9 lines 1-11).

19. With regards to claims 11-12, Hoke as modified teaches the use of SHA-1 and the hash function being invertible (Schneier, Page 442, "computationally infeasible to recover a message corresponding to a given message digest").

Conclusion

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L. Nalven whose telephone number is 571 272

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3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-6, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques can be reached on 571 272 6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrew Nalven




JACQUES H. LOUIS-JACQUES
PRIMARY EXAMINER